

*Allen Dulles - Believes this STAT
will be of personal interest*

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1 September 1960

Handwritten initials: ER

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY DOUGLAS

From: Brig Gen Lansdale, OSO/OSD

Subject: Press Speculation on NSA Story

It seems to be time for an American leader to give the U.S. public a big dose of common sense about U.S. Intelligence. The public's news media, these past several days, has shown a distortion of facts and values which is more than harmful to the Administration; it is endangering, thoughtlessly and selfishly, our National freedom. The NSA case of Martin and Mitchell is one current example. There are others, including those concerning CIA.

As Allen Dulles pointed out to the VFW in Detroit a few days ago, the Soviets right now are exploiting a spy phobia "to bring pressures to bear to help preserve the secrecy of (Communist) military preparations. These Kremlin tactics are intended to prevent the Free World from learning what it must know, by raising a shield behind which "the Kremlin believes that it is free to prepare for a surprise attack on the Free World in relative security."

A look at the press certainly indicates that the Kremlin is having some success. Recent trends in the NSA case strongly hint that political usage by Americans, coupled with conjectural reportage, might soon give the Communists a big payoff that no honest, decent American ever would want them to have.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Secretary of Defense:

a. Recommend to the President that he make a statement to the people of the United States about our Intelligence and about Soviet aims.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *Defense*

b. Issue a further Defense statement about the Martin/Mitchell case, noting that many false statements have appeared in the press. Defense does not intend to exaggerate the publicity by continually commenting on press stories. We believe Martin and Mitchell went behind the Iron Curtain. No classified documents or equipment are missing. The security of U.S. codes and communications remains the same as before these two mathematicians disappeared.

In the President's statement, which might be best timed by inclusion in his next press conference, the following thoughts seem pertinent: There have been a lot of stories recently about U.S. intelligence activities. A real American should keep an important point in mind when he reads or hears these stories. Our intelligence activities bear on the life or death of our national freedom. The Communists would like us to scuttle our intelligence activities ... so they can go ahead with any preparations they need to surprise attack or blackmail us into giving in to their ambitions for world rule. Undermining confidence in our intelligence activities, provoking us to cut back our support of these activities, is a Kremlin goal. We must not help them do this!

There are a few misguided Americans who condemn or belittle our vital intelligence efforts to protect man's freedom. We must not let a handful of people speak for a great nation of 180 million free citizens. The actions of a handful is no sign that we are the least wrong or are failing in our efforts. So, let's play this game as Americans, not as tools of the Communists!

cc: Allen Dulles
Murray Snyder